

QH
1
A612
NH

ANNALS
OF
KENTUCKY NATURAL HISTORY

VOL. 1, ART. 8
FEBRUARY 1, 1952

OH
1
A612
NH

14 May 53

EVENING GROSBEAKS
IN CENTRAL KENTUCKY



Burt L. Monroe, Sr.



ANNALS OF KENTUCKY NATURAL HISTORY

VOL. 1, ART. 8, PP. 57-60

APR 29 1963

ANNALS OF KENTUCKY NATURAL HISTORY

Published by the Kentucky Society of Natural History, Inc.

Address correspondence to the Editor, William F. Furnish, Box 81, University of
Louisville, Louisville 8, Kentucky

EVENING GROSBEAKS IN CENTRAL KENTUCKY

By Burt L. Monroe, Sr.

As an important adjunct of the research program conducted by the Kentucky Society of Natural History on the Bernheim Forest Park in Bullitt and Nelson Counties, Kentucky, it is deemed practical and advisable that all discoveries of major stature be published prior to the final and complete publication of the survey. Therefore, the appearance of flocks of the rare and casual stragglers to Kentucky, the Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*), on the 14,000 acre preserve during the winter of 1951-1952 is herewith recorded by the ornithological branch of the Society.

The entry of this northern species into Kentucky has been recorded previously on very few occasions. In March 1887, Leon Otley Pindar recorded the Evening Grosbeak in the vicinity of Hickman, Fulton County, Kentucky for the first record. Pindar (1887) observed a small group on March 18, 22, 23 and 25. He saw seven on the last date and apparently collected three; however, the efforts to locate these specimens have so far been in vain.

On February 24, 1946, Burt L. Monroe, Sr. and Robert M. Mengel (1946) collected an adult male Evening Grosbeak at Anchorage, Jefferson County, Kentucky. It was sitting all alone in a tree and a careful search of the vicinity failed to disclose more of its kind. This specimen marked the first record of the species in Kentucky in fifty-nine years and constituted the only specimen of one of these birds taken within the boundaries of the state, then in existence.

The next appearance of the bird in Kentucky was reported by Robert Steilberg and Jerry Smith, of Louisville, on December 23, 1951 in conjunction with the Christmas Bird Census conducted by the Louisville Chapter of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Again, one lone individual, a female, was recorded. The bird was feeding on maple seeds together with a small flock of Cardinals (*Richmondena cardinalis*) in a driveway near Prospect, Jefferson County, Kentucky. There were no other Evening Grosbeaks discernable in the neighborhood.

On December 30, 1951, a flock of seventeen Evening Grosbeaks was found on the Bernheim Forest Park in Bullitt County, Kentucky, by Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Burt L. Monroe, Jr., and Thomas Fuller. The birds were feeding on the berries of the Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*).

ERRATUM: p. 60, PINDAR, L. O.:

Add:

Auk, vol. 4, p. 257.

... and the noise be heard at a ng for short flying, sud- the area which d spend some ch they would one fruit. This flock consisted of five males and twelve females. With the permission of the Park Authorities and official representatives of the Division of Game and Fish, one female was collected for the record, constituting the second Kentucky specimen of this species now available. It is in the collection of the author at Anchorage, Kentucky.

The birds were seen again in the same location on January 1, 1952, by our group and Don Summerfield. The flock had been built up in numbers to a total of over twenty individuals. Seven males were in evidence on this day. On January 6, 1952, when Walter Shackleton took moving pictures of the birds, the numbers were constant as far as we were able to ascertain.

Under the daily observation of Frank H. Bunce, Resident Manager of Bernheim Forest Park, other members of the Kentucky Society of Natural History

The next appearance of the bird in Kentucky was reported by Robert Steilberg and Jerry Smith, of Louisville, on December 23, 1951 in conjunction with the Christmas Bird Census conducted by the Louisville Chapter of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Again, one lone individual, a female, was recorded. The bird was feeding on maple seeds together with a small flock of Cardinals (*Richmondena cardinalis*) in a driveway near Prospect, Jefferson County, Kentucky. There were no other Evening Grosbeaks discernable in the neighborhood.

On December 30, 1951, a flock of seventeen Evening Grosbeaks was found on the Bernheim Forest Park in Bullitt County, Kentucky, by Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Burt L. Monroe, Jr., and Thomas Fuller. The birds were feeding on the berries of the Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana* L.) and the noise of the cracking of the berries could be heard at a considerable distance. After feeding for short intervals, the birds had the habit of flying, suddenly as a group, to trees within the area which had bare branches. Here they would spend some time cleaning their bills, after which they would again return to the trees bearing the fruit. This flock consisted of five males and twelve females. With the permission of the Park Authorities and official representatives of the Division of Game and Fish, one female was collected for the record, constituting the second Kentucky specimen of this species now available. It is in the collection of the author at Anchorage, Kentucky.

The birds were seen again in the same location on January 1, 1952, by our group and Don Summerfield. The flock had been built up in numbers to a total of over twenty individuals. Seven males were in evidence on this day. On January 6, 1952, when Walter Shackleton took moving pictures of the birds, the numbers were constant as far as we were able to ascertain.

Under the daily observation of Frank H. Bunce, Resident Manager of Bernheim Forest Park, other members of the Kentucky Society of Natural History



and Park Rangers Cletis Willer and Clarence Burgin, the birds have been recorded in the same location, still feeding on the berries, up to the present, January 20, 1952. It is believed that so long as this food supply is not depleted, the birds will remain, at least until spring.

LITERATURE CITED

MONROE, BURT L. and ROBERT M. MENGEL

1946 The Evening Grosbeak in Kentucky. *Wilson Bull.*, vol. 58, no. 2, p. 116.

PINDAR, L. O.

1887 Occurrence of the Evening Grosbeak in Fulton County, Kentucky.

BURT L. MONROE, Sr.
State Ornithologist
Anchorage, Kentucky

THE KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY

Founded 1939; known prior to Incorporation in 1943 as The Natural History Club

THE KENTUCKY NATURALIST

Initiated 1946

ANNALS OF KENTUCKY NATURAL HISTORY

Initiated 1941; following interruption in the war years, resumed 1948

ANNALS OF KENTUCKY NATURAL HISTORY are occasional publications of The Kentucky Society of Natural History complementing the Society's quarterly, THE KENTUCKY NATURALIST, and issued separately to facilitate distribution and binding. From the papers submitted the Editor selects those which are more technical, or which represent a formal contribution to the study of Natural History, for publication as ANNALS. Unsubscribed copies are held for exchange or for individual sale at nominal prices.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION LIBRARIES



3 9088 01429 4896